



# **John Reich Journal**

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May 2012

# JRCS

**JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY**  
**P.O. Box 1680 Windham, ME 04062**

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues .....\$25.00  
Life Membership .....\$625.00

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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: 1836 B-3 small size quarter. One of the most dramatic LDS examples in the entire bust quarter series displaying both obverse and reverse breaks along with die buckling at the lower drapery. Popular and very collectible because it can be found easily with the breaks (R-1) although much tougher in the early die state. Owned by Glenn Marx.

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# John Reich Journal

Official publication of the  
John Reich Collectors Society

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## Editors' Comments

Spring is upon us, the youth are in the fields playing baseball and soccer which means that the ANA's World's Fair of Money is on the horizon. It is time to begin preparing for your summer pilgrimage to the Mecca of all coin shows. This year it will be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 7-12. Like previous years, you will have the opportunity to not only catch up with old friends but to add numerous pieces to your collection. You will also be able to attend educational seminars and club meetings to expand your numismatic knowledge. Speaking of club meetings, the annual meeting of the John Reich Collectors Society will occur on Wednesday morning at 8AM in the Philadelphia convention center. The actual meeting room has not yet been assigned so please refer to the convention schedule for the exact location.

During the meeting we will be reviewing the minutes from last year, electing the officers for the upcoming year, bestowing the *Jules Reiver Literary Award* on a lucky author and inducting the latest members into our Hall of Fame. We will also be featuring an educational presentation by Dick Graham on Reeded Edge Bust half dollars. Dick is in the final stages of researching a die marriage identification book on the reeded edge halves to replace the **Variety Identification Manual (VIM)** that Jules Reiver produced many years ago. We look forward to seeing all our old friends, and many new ones at the meeting. Come out and have a good time.

There will be other meetings at the convention that may be of interest to the membership. I would suggest attending the Early American Coppers (EAC) meeting as well as the Bust Quarter Collectors Society, the Bust Half Nut Club (BHNC), the Colonial Coins Collectors Club (C<sup>4</sup>), and the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (NBS). All are dedicated organizations that study an area of numismatics that overlaps the interest for most JRCS members.

I would also like to remind the members that the Bust Dime reference collection of our past president, David J. Davis, will be auctioned by Stacks/Bowers during the convention. This was one of the collections used to write and illustrate the book on bust dime die marriages published by the society in 1984. There will be many coins available that were used as plate coins in the book. This collection was complete by die marriage until the discovery of the 1827 JR14 by an Ohio collector. Numerous condition census pieces will be offered as part of this collection. There will also be an example of the extremely rare 1827 JR10 and an undamaged 1829 curl base 2 dime. Do not miss the opportunity to view the collection one last time in its entirety during lot viewing.

Collectors of the quarter series will find the latest census in this issue of the journal. Dr. Glenn Peterson has again put together the data for our enjoyment. Some of the rarity ratings have been adjusted since the last publication of that census. Be sure to inspect his work to learn more about what is available in the quarter series.

The next issue of the journal will have a census for the pre-turban half dollars of 1794-1807. Steve Herrman is compiling this census again for the society. Please see the call for information at the end of the editor's notes and instructions on how to submit your inventory for inclusion. The interest in these half dollars has increased in the last few years. Maybe we will be exposed to some new insights into these coins by Steve's work.

I would like to take a moment to thank each of the authors who has submitted articles for publication in the journal. The collecting community is enriched by your efforts. I would also like to encourage other authors to come forward and submit something for inclusion in a future journal. We are always looking for new insights and opinions to include in the **JR Journal**. We welcome individual experiences, questions, comments or extensive research papers for publication. A bonus is that each article published is eligible for the *Jules Reiver Literary Award* awarded by the society for the most popular article from the prior volume of the JR Journal. I look forward to seeing submissions from some new authors this year!

Now, kick back and enjoy the articles included in this issue of the **John Reich Journal**.

### NOTICE

Pre Turban Half Dollar Census information is now being solicited for inclusion in the next issue of the **John Reich Journal**.

Please email your complete inventory listing  
(Including ALL duplicates and die states)  
of your Bust Halves dated 1794-1807.

or any questions to:

Steve Herrman at **herrman102@aol.com**

*Or, via fax to:*

**Steve Herrman**

**303-989-6393**

Please respond promptly to ensure inclusion of your collection in this Census.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## *Craig Sholley Writes:*

There is pretty solid evidence that the Abominable Bastard half dollars 1834 0-113 and 1834 0-114 arise from a failed hubbing experiment with 1834 0-113 being the master. Peale apparently wrote to Moore describing the basic hubbing process. Peale may have "neglected" to give the full process, or the Mint being unfamiliar simply did not get it right. Whatever the case may be, overlays clearly show that 0-114 arose from 0-113 with the outlines on the stars, the undertype of the reverse shield lines, etc. matching 0-113.

Full hubbing of dies would have to await Peale's return to explain the nuances of the process, such as touching up with a graver if the design is not fully impressing. Additionally, the Mint quickly discovered that the hubbing process was not good at reproducing high aspect ratio (ie, tall and thin) lines like the shield lines. These continue to be hand cut in each die until the Mint began drastically lowering the design relief in the late 1850s.

## *Craig Also Writes:*

I was doing some online research and I ran across the JR Newsletter from July 17, 2011. Therein, Jim Matthews wrote an interesting story on the long missing 1836 CLE showing up. In his discussion of the 1836 0-106 reverse, he attributes the work to Kneass. However, Kneass had a debilitating stroke on Aug 25, 1835, and from that time on he disappears from all Mint correspondence with only Gobrecht being mentioned in connection to engraving. So, while Kneass may have recovered to some extent, it appears that he never recovered enough to engrave. He may have done some minor die work such as punching dentils, letters and numerals, and he may have consulted with Gobrecht and Patterson on designs, but even that is not certain since there are no records mentioning Kneass' involvement at all.

Thus, the addition of the raised rim to the 1836 0-106 reverse should be attributed to Gobrecht. And, while Gobrecht would have done the work, the idea likely originated with Peale.

Most numismatists are unfortunately unaware that Peale's contributions to U.S. minting technology extended far beyond simply bringing back the design for the steam press. Perhaps more importantly, Peale also brought back several improved processes including those for assaying, refining, die hardening, die design, and the critical process for hubbing full dies (which had eluded the Mint since its founding). Letters in the archives clearly show Peale's direct involvement with the coinage redesigns. So, it is very likely that testing current designs with a rim originated with Peale.

In fact, it's very likely that Peale was the primary cause of all of the CLE's. While at the Paris mint, Peale saw their segmented, lettered-edge collar. To say that he was impressed is an understatement and from then on Peale never wasted an opportunity to stump for the Mint developing one of their own. The CLE's would be a logical way to demonstrate that they could not use the current lettered-edge process in conjunction with a close collar. That these pieces were struck in 1836 ties in with the development of the new coinage designs, especially the dollar, during which Peale again lobbied for a segmented collar.

***R.W. (Bob) Julian Writes:***

An item discovered while doing research:

On January 27, 1819, Richard Starr brought 17 letter and figure punches for quarter dollars to Robert Scot at the Mint. The Mint paid 50 cents for each punch. Frank Stewart refers (page 187) to this but only in general terms.



# **FACSINATING 1836 DOUBLE STRUCK HALF**

## **Jeff Reichenberger with expert analysis by Edgar Souders**

Several years ago I revealed my interest in Capped Bust Half Dollars to a dealer/collector friend. The dealer in him promptly said, “Oh, then you might be interested in this”, as he flashed a slabbed 1836 CBH before my eyes. Showing me the obverse, I recognized it was in a PCGS holder, but the coin was backwards – the obverse faced the back and the reverse was in the front. I quickly found out why! The reverse is double struck (and very cool) which is why I assume PCGS put it in the holder that way. I asked his price for the coin and he said, “It’s not for sale”. I guess that was the collector in him.

Recently, I asked him if I could photograph the 1836 CBH, to which he was most agreeable. (Fig. 1)



**(Fig. 1)** *PCGS labeled ‘Mint Error PCGS F12 D/S in Collar – Rev. only’*

This brought on some questions: First of all, it seems like a lot of description to put on the holder. I don't think I've seen that much verbiage on a slab before. Second, there must be some sign of doubling on the obverse. Third, I think I see three strikes. And finally, what are they talking about with 'in Collar'?

The first order of business was attribution. The positions of the date numerals match O101, as does the recutting of Stars 6 and 7. Trying to verify the reverse made me go cross-eyed, so I concluded O101 was 'close enough'! I saw absolutely no trace of doubling on the obverse. I still had the notion that there may have been three strikes, as I was certain I saw images of three wings and the ones with the most prominent relief appear to be clipped. I also thought I saw three images of A3 (or is that A6?).

As to the part about 'double struck in Collar' I surmised as such:

The coin was struck, it stuck to the obverse die, the reverse die then moved, another planchet was not inserted, a second blow hit the same coin, and bingo - the obverse appeared normal but the reverse is double struck! (See Fig. 2-5).

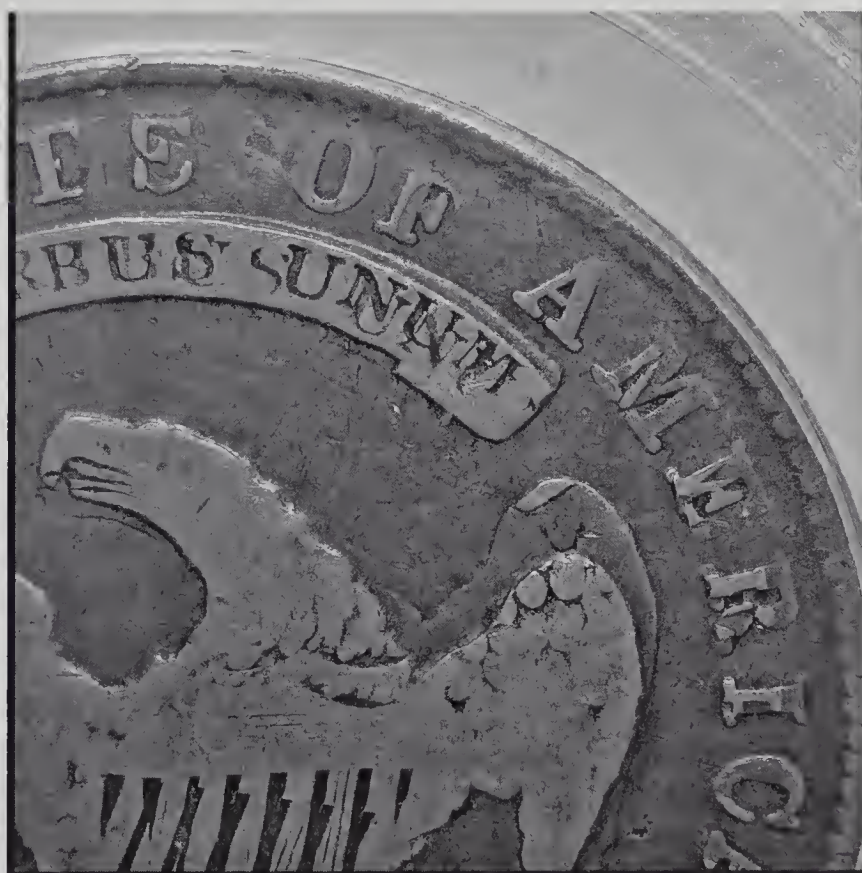


(Fig. 2) Upper left shows overlapping in the motto, scroll and left wing





(Fig. 3) *Lower left quadrant with confusing overlapping in Olive Leaves*



(Fig. 4) *Note the position of the Wing & Legend Letters*



(Fig. 5) Note partially flattened Arrowheads, Wings & Eagle's right claw

Unable to be totally confident in my hypothesis, I sent the images to Edgar Souders, whom as we all know, would leave not a stone unturned in the investigation. Somehow it seems to me, when Edgar contemplates a coin, his mind flashes instantly to the time and place the coin was made. It's almost like he Vulcan-mind-melds with the mechanical workings of the machines and the men operating them. So who better to put to the task?

I was not disappointed! The following is Edgar's analysis:

(Before photographic overlay examination conversation.)

*"Great piece! A one sided double strike (in any series) is one of the rarest of all striking errors. At first glance I thought two strikes on the reverse too, but I "think" I might see why you considered possibly three strikes. Definitely O-101, the obverse is easily identified by the heavy (more open) dentil space at Star 8's outside point to dentil. Also, selected (by me) 5 and 6 group areas of the reverse dentil positions are also correct for the O-101 reverse.*

*The "clipped" wings that you refer to are correct. The final strike was rotated and the wings appear clipped because the metal was flattened from the first strike (and possibly the second) and could not go up into the wing because it wasn't there to flow. This gives the Eagle the appearance of smaller wings and is correct for a double struck piece as well as a triple struck piece when the working die rotated in*



*the screwpress . I see no traces of a double strike on the obverse at all. And, due to the degree of doubling on the reverse there should be something in known noticeable areas consistent to an obverse double strike."*



**(Fig. 6)** *Obverse strike shows no traces of doubling*

*"Assuming that the obverse die was the (normal) hammer die then this would mean (as you stated) that the planchet had to STICK to the obverse die, AND the reverse would have had to have been loose enough, in the die cup, to have rotated between strikes for this to occur. This seems likely, at this point, but makes the "double struck in collar reverse only" to be an incorrect statement. For this statement to be correct then the OBVERSE would have had to have been in the anvil die position, and loose in the die cup - while the planchet sat on the die and the entire die turned with the planchet sitting perfectly on it while it rotated. Then the reverse would have thus been the hammer die and locked in the upper die holder of the press - for it to technically have been double struck "in the (open-Edgar) collar". So either the terminology on the slab is wrong, or the method (working obverse = hammer die) is wrong. I really want to play around with some overlays on this piece!"*



*(After further study of photographic overlays)*

*“Enclosed please find the overlays of the 1836 O-101. A very interesting half-dollar!”*



**(Fig. 7)** *Enlarged original image of Reverse*

*First off, this is your original image of the reverse. This second image shows the position of the first strike, and is a perfect match in central device of the Eagle and all Legend Letters. The Legend Letters and Denomination, were pushed up into the cavities of the reverse die and can be compared to your original image (Fig. 7) for a perfect match. For this reverse overlay comparison I used my normal set piece reverse (Reverse A).”*



**(Fig. 8)** *Overlay of both images with a rotation of reverse*

*“Also note the dentils on left slightly shifted indicating slight movement of the planchet in the open collar. Interestingly, this (combined) image above shows the original strike complete, and full, like it normally should look after a single strike. Ignore the lettering for now. (Squinting your eyes helps blend them). I used 40% opacity of the second image. This enables us to see through it, to a large degree, so we can see where everything was before the second strike occurred. Thus, for the first strike, the wings, head, claws, etcetera, were not clipped in appearance.”*





(Fig. 9) Overlay of second strike, after die rotation with partial flattening of first strike. This clipped the wings, head claws, arrowheads, olive branch & all lettering.

*“The third, or bottom image, is an overlay of the second strike - which give the impression of an Eagle with much smaller (clipped) wings, etc. The first strike (on the planchet) was then free go up, and into, the cavity of working die/second strike - with the exception of the areas that were flattened into the field due to the second strike rotation of approximately 5 degrees counterclockwise.*

*I think the rotation of the working dies, between the first and second strike is what at first gives the impression of three strikes - but these overlays prove that there were only two strikes necessary to give all visual lines and clues a complete and perfect match. So, Double Struck Reverse, is a correct terminology.*

*However, as I stated in an earlier email, in my opinion, the rest of the determination on the slab is either incorrect (Double Struck "in Collar" Reverse Only), or it is correct, but the hammer die was the reverse die, and the obverse a loose anvil die, so that it could rotate in the die cup (which I doubt).”*



It is plain to see the double strike when looking at the overlays. The only thing in question is the 'in Collar' part. It is likely an erroneous statement unless, as Edgar points out, the unusual circumstances of the obverse being the anvil die and the reverse the hammer die.

I contemplated how many double (or triple) strike errors of this sort are possibly out there, or if there are certain dates or time periods at the mint that may have had a proliferation of double strikes. (A quick count in AMBPR reveals 46 double or triple struck CBH.) I posed the question to Edgar as well, who responded;

*"No one that I am aware of is presently keeping any records on total double struck Capped Bust Halves, by overall series, or by date. A quick check of my notes shows under 50, in all dates, in all grades, but these are just notes, and auction records, and I've made no effort to track them in later auctions, sales between BHNC members, etc. I would think that they are, as a rule, all very rare. Perhaps only 100 to 120 in all grades - and that would be at the very high end."*

Wow! "Perhaps only 100 to 120 in all grades"! That's a rare bird, and so interesting! Is anyone out there willing to share photos or stories of other multiple struck birds? How about Capped Bust half dimes, dimes, and quarters? I think we can all agree it would make an excellent census.



# HERALDIC EAGLE DIE ANALYSIS

## Part 2 - The 5th Wing Feather

David Finkelstein

In *Heraldic Eagle Die Analysis Part 1*, I concluded that it was the Mint's intent to engrave every Heraldic Eagle reverse with 13 outer feathers in the eagle's left wing and 13 outer feathers in the eagle's right wing. There are three exceptions. Three \$5 Half Eagle reverse dies have 12 outer feathers in the eagle's right wing.

Counting down from the top of the eagle's right wing, the 5th wing feather is small, and appears to "peek out" above the E in the scroll, as illustrated in Figure 1.

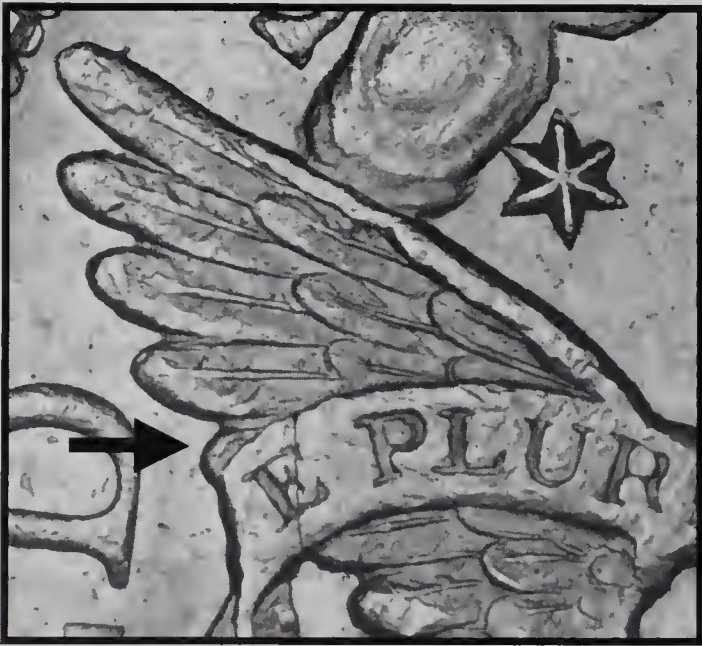


Figure 1. *The 5th Wing Feather*

Heritage Auctions has an amazing digital image library of over 1.3 million numismatic items they have auctioned over the years. I have been able to analyze high quality digital images of almost every Heraldic Eagle Half Dime, Dime, Quarter, Half Dollar, Dollar, \$ 2 1/2 Gold, \$5 Gold and \$10 Gold die marriage. As I compared the reverses in repetition, and side by side, I noticed that during the earlier years of the Heraldic Eagle design, the 5th wing feather in the eagle's right wing had different sizes and shapes. In fact, it appears to be a different size and shape on every die.

Table 1 is a montage of 5th wing feathers. Each row contains images from different dies within the same denomination. I added a few arrows to identify some interesting 5th wing feathers.



**Table 1 - 5th Wing Feathers By Denomination**


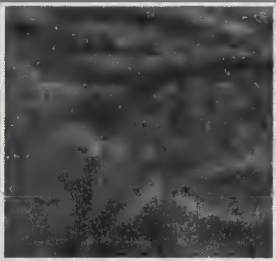
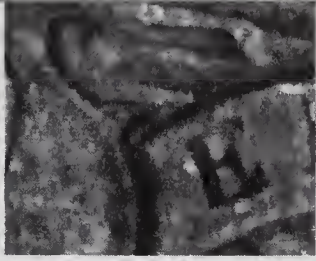
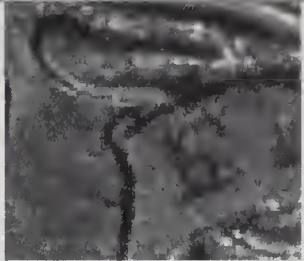






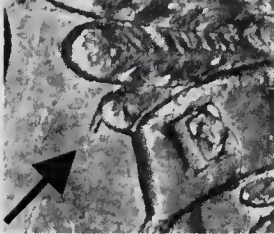


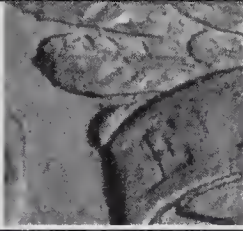

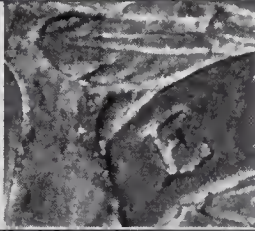


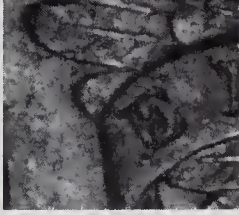

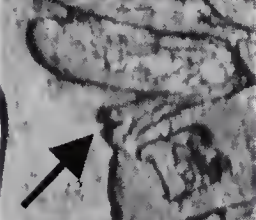
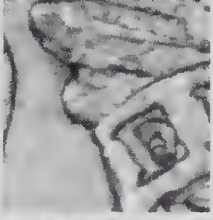


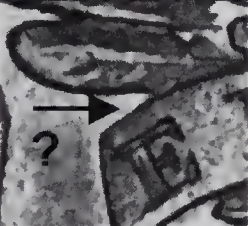




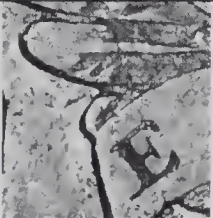
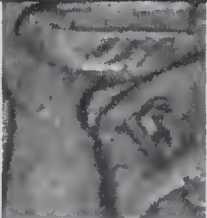
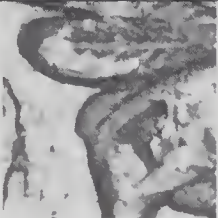
Half Dimes				
Dimes				
Quarters				
Half Dollars				
Dollars				
\$2 ½ Gold				
\$5 Gold				
\$10 Gold				

Photo credit: Half dime reverse B photo courtesy of Rich Uhrich Rare Coins



Was The 5th Wing Feather On A Hub?

One possible scenario is that during the early years of the Heraldic Eagle design, the 5th wing feather was hand engraved on the Working Dies. Then, during the later years of the design, as Mint technology and individual engraver capabilities improved, the 5th wing feather was added to the Hub. If this was true, then the 5th wing feather would be identical on all die marriages for a given year (excluding any reused dies from previous years as they could possibly have been created from a different Hub). That appears to be the case.

Table 2 includes, from left to right, top to bottom, images of 1807 Draped Bust Half Dollar Reverse A, B, C, D and E. 1807 Reverse F is not included because it is a reused die from 1806 (Reverse M). The 5th wing feathers on these reverse dies appear to be almost identical. Considering that this feather could have been touched up on the Working Die, I believe that the 5th wing feather was on the Hub.

**Table 2 - 1807 Half Dollar Reverse Dies A-E**



Table 3 includes, from left to right, images of 1803 Draped Bust Dollar Reverse A, B and C, as identified in *Silver Dollars & Trade Dollars Of The United States, A Complete Encyclopedia, Volume One*, by Q. David Bowers & Mark Borckardt (hereinafter referred to as BB). The 5th wing feathers on these reverses look identical to me.

**Table 3 - BB 1803 Dollar Reverse Dies A,B,C, X**

Table 3 also includes 1803 BB Reverse X. This is the reverse for the 1801, 1802 and 1803 Proof Novodels, and the 1804 Class I Dollar. The 5th wing feather looks identical to the 5th wing feathers on 1803 BB Reverse A, B, and C. Since it is believed that these Proofs were struck in the 1830's with the Working Dies created from Hubs of years past, Reverse X is additional evidence that the 5th wing feather was on the Hub.

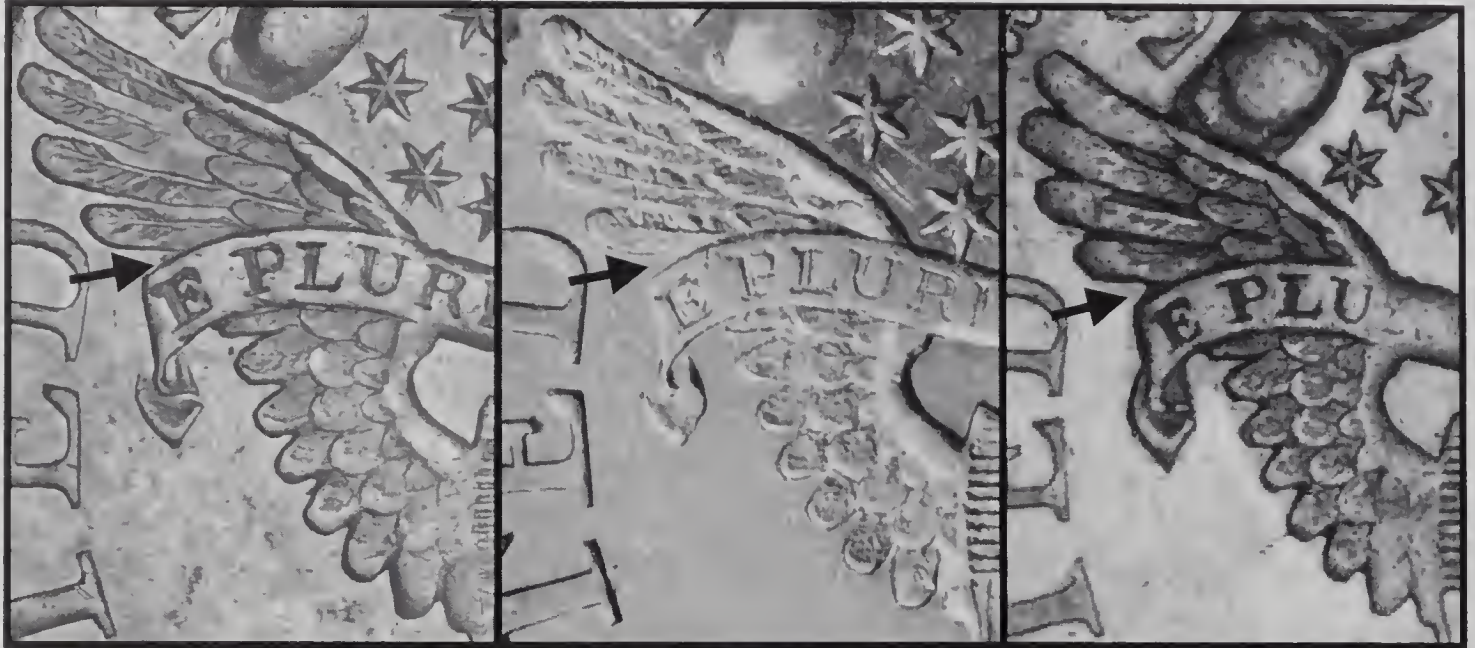
So now the next question is, "When did the 5th wing feather get added onto the Hub for each Heraldic Eagle denomination"? I do not know yet. This will be addressed in a future article.

### **Three \$5 Half Eagle Reverse Dies Are Missing The 5th Wing Feather**

Every Heraldic Eagle reverse, except for three \$5 Half Eagle reverse dies, have 13 outer feathers in the eagle's left wing and 13 outer feathers in the eagle's right wing. 1795 \$5 Reverse J (used to strike 1795 \$5 BD-13 and BD-14 – Figure 2), 1795 \$5 Reverse K (used to strike 1795 \$5 BD-15 and 1797 \$5 BD-5 – Figure 3) and 1799 \$5 Reverse A (used to strike 1799 \$5 BD-3 – Figure 4) are the only exceptions. They have only 12 outer feathers in the eagle's right wing.

In Figure 3, there is absolutely nothing in the field between the bottom of the 4th wing feather and the top of the scroll. In Figure 2, there is a tiny bump in the field above the E in the scroll. That doesn't look like a feather to me. In Figure 4, the junction of the bottom of the 4th wing feather and the top of the scroll looks to be filled. That also doesn't look like a feather to me. So, now the question is, how did this happen? I subscribe to the KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid!) school of thought. The engraver simply forgot to add the 5th wing feather on these three Working Dies.





**Figure 2 - 1795 \$5  
Reverse J**

**Figure 3 - 1795 \$5  
Reverse K**

**Figure 4 - 1799 \$5  
Reverse A**

## **Conclusions**

1. Early in the Heraldic Eagle series, 25 of the 26 outer wing feathers were part of every reverse Hub. The 5th feather from the top of the eagle's right wing was manually added to each Working Die.
2. The engraver forgot to add the 5th wing feather on 3 dies.
3. The 5th wing feather from the top of the eagle's right wing was eventually added to the Hubs for Half Dollars and Dollars.
4. Bust Dollar Reverse X, used to strike the 1801, 1802, and 1803 Proof Novodels, and the 1804 Class I, was created, in part, from a leftover reverse Hub.

Further analysis is required to determine:

- When was the 5th wing feather added to the Hubs for Half Dollars and Dollars?
- Was the 5th wing feather added to any of the Hubs for the other Heraldic Eagle denominations? If so, when?
- How was the Hub created?



I am not aware of any U S Mint related document that defines all the processes for creating the Working Dies for the Small Eagle, Heraldic Eagle, and Motto Over Eagle silver and gold coins. The information we seek is therefore on the coins. By analyzing the coins, and working backwards, we may get closer to understanding the die making processes. Unfortunately, trying to answer one question raises additional questions, as this article definitely has done. In addition, to get a better understanding of the die making process, we must broaden our scope of research. Instead of analyzing and researching our favorite denomination, we should analyze and research all denominations. This is my second of many articles that will focus at the Heraldic Eagle design. Rather than focusing on my favorite denomination (Bust Half Dollars), I am going to look at the entire picture.

To be continued....

## **References**

1. Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836, Author Al C. Overton, Editor Don Parsley.
2. The United States Early Silver Dollars from 1794-1803, M. H. Bolender.
3. Silver Dollars & Trade Dollars Of The United States, A Complete Encyclopedia, Volume One, Q. David Bowers & Mark Borckardt.
4. Early U.S. Gold Coin Varieties, John W. Dannreuther and Harry W. Bass Jr.
5. Auction Results Archive, Heritage Auctions, [coins.ha.com](http://coins.ha.com).
6. The image of 1799 \$5 Reverse A in Figure 4 is property of the Harry W. Bass Jr. Foundation and was provided specifically for use in this article.



# **Bust Quarter Census**

**Glenn R. Peterson, MD**

Welcome to the 2012 Bust Quarter Census. Our last census was volume 20 / Issue 1 in July 2009. Since the last census not one but TWO bust quarter references have been published. Both references greatly enhance the knowledge and information available about bust quarters since A.W. Browning's original reference in 1925.

The first published, **Early United States Quarters 1796-1838** by Steve Tompkins, begins with a history of the quarter references and a brief history of mint production. It lists each die marriage of bust quarters and introduces a new concept of describing the progression of the die in "die stages". His reference lists progressive clashes, cracks, die lapping, filled letters and die breaks that develop on obverse and reverse dies for each marriage. This approach is quite distinct from the next new reference which lists "die states" describing the known obverse and reverse progressions at set points along the progression of dies. Die states helps the collector know what obverse and reverse die deterioration coexist at certain times for each marriage but may not describe the intermediate die state where there is a change on only one side. Tompkins' reference describes HUB changes for the quarter dies and die linkage flow charts not described elsewhere. This reference also very thoroughly describes remarriages but leaves some information yet to be discovered as some of remarriages state "may not exist" in the remarriage description.

**Early Quarter Dollars Of The United States Mint** by authors Rory Rea, Glenn Peterson, Bradley Karoleff and John Kovach was released March 2011. It features an introduction by Carl Herkowitz who researched Ard W. Browning, even visiting his gravesite. This reference has extensive history vignettes for each year the bust quarters were produced which the authors believe embellish the pleasure of ownership of these beautiful coins. Rory Rea's photography, and census information, is a product of many years' study of the bust quarter series. The census shows, in some rare marriages, photos of all the known examples. Finally, deluxe editions of the reference feature plates of the Eric P. Newman collection of bust quarters, many of which were the plate coins in the original Browning publication. Each new text has, in my opinion, markedly advanced the knowledge of Bust Quarters.

Both books are still available from the authors. You may order Steve Tompkins book by contacting him at [smt115@aol.com](mailto:smt115@aol.com). The Rea, Peterson, Karoleff and Kovach edition is available from Brad Karoleff, 8077B Connector Drive, Florence, KY 41042.



Rarity ratings have changed for this edition of the bust quarter census. Rory Rea, Jim Koenings and Arum Haroutunian did extensive research on identifying the known examples of the rarest die marriages and tracking their auction appearances. This has allowed us to report revisions of the rarity ratings some of which have increased from the 2009 census. Examples of the changes include the 1806 B4 from R4- to R5- with 43 coins reported, 1818 B9 from R4+ to R5- with 43 reported, 1820 B1 from R4+ to R5- with 35 reported. 1805 B5 went from R5+ to R5- with 43 reported examples and 1823 B1 from R6 to R6- with 30 coins identified. New information has similarly lead us to slightly increase the rarity rating of 1821 B1, 1821 B3 1828 B3, and 1835 B8.

The census, like those before, list the reported coins by: 1. a listing of collections 2. numbers reported in each grade and finally by 3. finest known examples for each die marriage as reported in the new references. The information is limited by the fact that not all advanced collectors have submitted their census to be included in this study.

**Table 1. Finest known bust quarters**

YEAR	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	B9	B10
1796	66	67								
1804	65	65								
1805	65	66	64	64	58					
1806	65	65	65	55	64	61	58	50	66	64
1807	67	65								
1815	67									
1818	67	67	67	66	65	64	60	67	58	65
1819	65	65	67	62						
1820	67	65	67	66	67					
1821	64	66	65	67	66	65				
1822	68	66								
1823	64									
1824	65									
1825	65	66	66							
1827	66	66								
1828	65	65	65	66						
1831	66	66	60	66	66	65	55			
1832	65	66								
1833	65	65								
1834	66	67	65	67	62					
1835	64	65	60	65	65	65	66	63		
1836	64	67	66	64	50					
1837	65	67	66	64	66	15				
1838	68									

Bust Quarter Census by Grade										
Year	B#	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	TOTAL
1796	1	4+		2						2
	2	3	2	3						5
1804	1	3	1	1	1	4				7
	2	5	4	2		2				8
1805	1	4+	1	3	3	2		1		10
	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	1		13
	3	2	1	3		3		1		8
	4	4-	2	3		1		1	1	8
	5	5	4	2		2				8
1806	1	2	2		3	3		1		9
	2	2	1	3	2	1			1	8
	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	1		10
	4	5-	2	1	2		2	1		8
	5	4+	2	2	1	4	1	1		11
	6	5	1	4	1	2	1	1		10
	7	5	1	2	1	2		2		8
	8	6	1	2	1	1		1		6
	9	1	1	2	1	2		1		7
	10	5	4		2	3				9
1807	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	3	1	11
	2	3	3	1	3	2			1	10
1815	1	1	2	2	4	2	3	8		21
1815E	1						2	5		7
1815L	1					1	1	4		6
1818	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	11
	2	1	1		1	4	1	6		13
	3	3		1	3	1		5		10
	4	3	1	3	3	2	2	3	1	15
	5	4+	2	1	2	1	5	1		12
	6	4+	2	2	5	2	1	2		14
	7	4+	4	1	3	1	2	2		13
	8	3	1	1	2	2	2	4		12
	9	5-	2	3	1	2	3	2		13
	10	3	1	1	3	5	2	1		13
1819	1	5-	2	3		3	1	4		13
	2	3	1	4	3	1	2	2	1	14
	3	1	1	3	2	2	2	2		12
	4	4+	6	4	1	1	2	3		17
1820	1	5-	1	5	1		6	3		16
	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3		15
	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	1		10
	4	2	1	1	2	2	1	1		6
	5	5	2	4	1	2	3			11
1821	1	3	3		3	2		2	1	13
	2	5	2	2	3	1		2	1	15
	3	3	1	3	2	3	3	3		15
	4	3		2	2	3	1	5	1	14
	5	4+	1	3	2	1		2	2	11
	6	7	1	1		2				4



Year	B#	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	TOTAL
1822	1	2	2	2	4	4	2	2		16
	2	5	2	3			1	1		7
1823	1	6-		2				2		4
1824	1	3	2	4	1	2	4	3		16
1825	1	5	1	2	1	2	1	4		11
	2	2	1	4	2	4	3	9	1	24
1825E	2					1	1	3		5
1825L	2					2	2	3		7
	3	3	1	1	3	4	3	2		14
1827	1	7							1	1
	2	6+							1	1
1828	1	1	1	4	4	1	2	4	1	17
	2	5-		3		2		4	1	10
	3	5		6	2	1	1	1		11
	4	3		1	4		1	4	1	11
1831	1	3	1			4	2	4		11
	2	2	1			5	4	1	1	12
	3	5		1	1	3	3	5		13
	4	1	1			4	3	2		10
	5	2		1	1	2	2	4	1	11
	6	3		1	1	3	3	3	1	12
	7	5+	3	2	2	2	2	1		12
1832	1	2			2	2	5	4		13
	2	2	1		1	4	3	2		11
1833	1	2				5	3	3	3	14
	2	3			2	1	2	2		7
1834	1	1			1	5	4	4	2	16
	2	4		1		4	2	3		10
	3	3		1		5	1	3		10
	4	1				4	2	6	2	14
	5	5		1	1	6	2	4	1	15
1835	1	1				3	4	3		10
	2	2		1		1	4	3	1	10
	3	4+	2	1		4	3	1		11
	4	4			1	4	3	2		10
	5	3	1		4	3	2	4		14
	6	3			2	4	3	2	1	12
	7	2	1		1	3	4	2	1	12
	8	5	1		2	3	3	2		10
1836	1	3			1	8	2	3		13
	2	2	1		1	6	3	2	1	13
	3	1	1			6	3	4	2	15
	4	4			1	5	5	2	2	15
	5	6+			3	1	3			7
1837	1	4		1		5	3	1	1	11
	2	1		1		2	6	3		12
	3	4			1	2	3	1	1	8
	4	3		1	2	6	2	3	3	17
	5	5	1	2	2	2		4	2	13
	6	8			2					2
1838	1	1	1		1	4	1	6		13

Total reported in all grades 1096

Bust Quarter Census

Year	B#	Rarity	589	282	323	1029	LM56	48	869	853	912	978	1072	1195	RPD	AVG	MAX
1796	1	4+	8	12									1		3	7	12
	2	3	8	12						3			10		4	8	12
1804	1	3	12	30	8	20		3		25			35		7	19	35
	2	5	8	15	10			3		3			4		6	7	15
1805	1	4+	18	12	10	40	15	3	8	12		10	58		10	19	58
	2	2	40	10	35	55	8	6	8	4			58		9	25	58
	3	2	8	15	8	50	10	4	4				58		8	20	58
	4	4-	30	10	4	58	8	4	8				62		8	23	62
	5	5	20	6	10	10	8	4		4			20		8	10	20
1806	1	2	20	12	6	20	8	4	12	30			55		9	19	55
	2	2	18	10	12	61	8	6	10	10			25		9	18	61
	3	1	40	25	8	55	6	6	8	35			58		9	27	58
	4	5-	18	12	6	50	8	6	8				45		8	19	50
	5	4+	40	12	35	20	6	4	20	10			58		9	23	58
	6	5	20	25	20	45		4	8	12		8	55		9	22	55
	7	5	30	10	55	58		4	8			12	25		8	25	58
	8	6	30	15	8	8		3					50		6	19	50
	9	1	15	25	8	58	12	6	8				50		8	23	58
	10	5	35	35	12	25	6	3	6	4			15		9	16	35
1807	1	2	45	35	4	58	18	4	10	20			63		9	29	63
	2	3	25	15	6	25	10	3	6	8			61		9	18	61
1815	1	1	55	20	58	53	55	4	50	58	45		15	58	11	43	58
1815E	1		55		58		55		50		45			58	6	54	58
1815L	1		50		58		25			58	50			45	6	48	58
1818	1	2	62	40	12		15	4	10		50		15	55	9	29	62
	2	1	50	25	12	55	25	20	30	58	55	25	50	55	12	38	58
	3	3	50	12	12	55	15	20	12		50			58	9	32	58
	4	3	62	12	8	40	20	20	8	30	45	15	50	55	12	30	62
	5	4+	40	40	12	45	8	25	10	45	40	15	3	55	12	28	55
	6	4+	15	30	12	58	12	8	15	20	40	15	35	58	12	27	58
	7	4+	45	30	8	55	15	3	15	4	55	10	15	50	12	25	55
	8	3	50	20	20	58	8	2	12	12	40	10	58	55	12	29	58
	9	5-	30	45	10	58	12	8	4	20	30		45	58	11	29	58
	10	3	45	20	12	35	8	4	8	12	50	35	15	58	12	25	58
1819	1	5-	25	50	30	58	25	10	6	8	40	25	20	55	12	29	58
	2	3	50	30	8	45	20	4	12	15	45	10	62	55	12	30	62
	3	1	20	20	10	55	20	4	10	10	40	15		58	11	24	58
	4	4+	50	8	8	45	30	4	4	10	50	15	35	58	12	26	58
1820	1	5-	40	10	10	58	35	8	12	45	45	10	45	58	12	31	58
	2	2	45	12	20	58	15	4	10	30	45	30	12	58	12	28	58
	3	3	20	10	8		15		12	18	45	8	20	55	10	21	55
	4	2	20	10	8		12	4	15	35	40	15		58	10	22	58
	5	5	40	20	10	25	15	4	4	4	45	10	15	45	12	20	45



Year	B#	Rarity	589	282	323	1029	LM56	48	869	853	912	978	1072	1195	RPD	AVG	MAX
1821	1	3	30	15	12	62	20	6	15		50	20		55	10	29	62
	2	5	30	10	15	61	25	6	12	10	55	12		50	11	26	61
	3	3	40	25	15	45	20	15	8	45	55	35	50	58	12	34	58
	4	2	45	10	55	63	8	10	20	30	55	15	12	58	12	32	63
	5	4+	63	8	10	63	30	4	10		58	30		58	10	33	63
	6	7	30		3	8								20	4	15	30
1822	1	2	35	12	25	50	12	6	15	30	45	8	8	55	12	25	55
	2	5	8	8	8	3					45		6	58	7	19	58
1823	1	6-		8							55		8	50	4	30	55
1824	1	3	40	10	40	58	12	6	10	25	45	10	55	53	12	30	58
1825	1	5	18	50	25	58	6	2	6	20	40	12	58	55	12	29	58
	2	2	55	40	55	20	45	4	8	45	40	12	40	58	12	35	58
1825E	2		55		55		45				30			58	5	49	58
1825L	2		55		50		20				30			55	5	42	55
	3	3	35	20	15	35	18	3	20	12	40	12	53	58	12	27	58
1827	1	7												62	1	62	62
	2	6+													1	63	63
1828	1	1	63	58	45	50	18	2	8	10	45	15	15	58	12	32	63
	2	5-	55	10	8	63	10	8	8	20	55	25	50	58	12	31	63
	3	5	35	12	10	8	3	8	8	8	40	10	58	58	12	22	58
	4	3	50	10	20		15	15	12	12	58	15	55	50	11	28	58
1831	1	3	40	55	35		30	4	25	20	55	30			9	33	55
	2	2	40	20	40	63	35	6	35	45	40	30			10	35	63
	3	5	48	20	45	55	35	8		12	55	30			9	34	55
	4	1	40	50	45		30	6	20	30	50	20			9	32	50
	5	2	50	12	35	64	35	10	20	53	45	45			10	37	64
	6	3	45	20	35	62	45	12	40	62	55	20	45		11	40	62
	7	5+	40	8	12	45	30			4	53		4		8	25	53
1832	1	2	50	12	58	58	45	12	40	45	45	20			10	39	58
	2	2	45	30	40	58	30	6	15	30	50	35			10	34	58
1833	1	2	45	40	55	63	20	30	20	45	50	25			10	39	63
	2	3	40	45	45	58	40	12	12	12	55	20			10	34	58
1834	1	1	45	35	45	55	45	6	25	20	45	20			10	34	55
	2	4	40	25	50	58	45	8	30	40	55	25			10	38	58
	3	3	30	25	55	55	30	8	20	45	55	30			10	35	55
	4	1	45	30	62	58	40	45	20	55	50	20	40		11	42	62
	5	5	35	40	35	62	35	8	15	45	55	8			10	34	62
1835	1	1	45	40	35	55	35		25	45	45	35			9	40	55
	2	2	50	40	55	62	45	10	40	45	55	30			10	43	62
	3	4+	40	12	45	58	50	6	30	20	40	30			10	33	58
	4	4	35	40	30	55	20	15	30		45	40			9	34	55
	5	3	58	45	40	58	20	6	25	30	45	40			10	37	58
	6	3	40	40	35	61	35	15	35	30	40	15	40		11	35	61
	7	2	45	20	40	62	40	6	40	45	55	35	55		11	40	62
	8	5	40	30	55	45	30	40	15	20	55	20			10	35	55

Year	B#	Rarity	589	282	323	1029	LM56	48	869	853	912	978	1072	1195	RPD	AVG	MAX
1836	1	3	45	45	50	55	25	30	30	12	58	20			10	37	58
	2	2	35	45	35	58	18	4	35	40	40	15			10	33	58
	3	1	35	20	30	62	35		45	45	58	40			9	41	62
	4	4	45	40	40	64	35	20	35	45	55	30			10	41	64
	5	6+	15	40	15	45	8				45				6	28	45
1837	1	4	40	35	50	62	35	8	20	20	45	20			10	34	62
	2	1	40	40	45	58	15	8	25	45	45	20			10	34	58
	3	4	45	20	40	64	30	20	45	15	58				9	37	64
	4	3	35	25	15	63	40	4	20	45	50				9	33	63
	5	5	50	8	58	63	35	8	30	6	55	15			10	33	63
	6	8	15			12									2	14	15
1838	1	1	50	50	30	58	35	6	30	55	58				9	41	58
			589	282	323	1029	LM56	48	869	853	912	978	1072	1195	96 known DIE MARRIAGES		
Marriages Owned			93	92	90	84	83	83	81	77	71	63	56	38			
Average Grade			37	24	26	49	23	9	18	26	48	21	36	55			



1806 B-1



1806 B-4b



1806 B-5



1833 B-1

1833 quarter photo courtesy of Tom Mulvaney and Dave Akers





# **The David J. Davis Bust Dime Collection**

**John W. McCloskey**

David Davis began collecting Bust dimes in the 1960s before there was any published die variety reference material on this series in the numismatic literature. He was however familiar with the books describing die marriages for Bust half dimes by D.W. Valentine, Bust quarters by Ard W. Browning and Bust half dollars by Al C. Overton. These standard reference books on Bust coinage gave this budding numismatic scholar a wealth of valuable information that would help him organize his research on the Bust dime series in future years.

I began collecting Bust dimes in 1969 and initially planned to obtain a date set from 1809 to 1837. However, when I upgraded the pieces in my collection I quickly noticed differences in date styles for coins from the same year, differences in the placement of the lettering and stars around the periphery of the obverse and reverse designs as well as die scratches, die cracks and cuds that appeared on only a fraction of the coins of a given date. I began to prepare written descriptions for the pieces I owned to see if they matched the features of new pieces I encountered at shows. When I found a piece that didn't match the description for any of the pieces that I owned, I bought it.

This procedure worked well for a while but once I owned four or five different die marriages for a given date, it was difficult to determine if a piece under study was really different from all of the other coins from that year. I simply didn't know what features to look at when distinguishing one die from another. I realized I needed help identifying the die marriages for Bust dimes and sought out other collectors with experience in this field. I remember reading an article in Coin World by Walter Breen in the early 1970s describing the different date styles on 1835 Bust dimes. I wrote a letter to Breen asking him if he could provide me with the name of other collectors with whom I could work in identifying die marriages of Bust dimes. It wasn't long before I received his reply with an address for David Davis indicating that this individual was a serious numismatic scholar with extensive knowledge of Bust coinage.

I quickly contacted David Davis and it wasn't long before we were meeting at local coin shows and exchanging information on the Bust dimes that we had purchased. Within a few months we met Russ Logan at a local show in Ohio and the three of us started comparing notes on the coins in our die marriage collections. It was an exciting time because none of us knew what die marriages existed and we were discovering new ones at almost every show we attended. However, this euphoria only lasted for about a year, after which we began to find that we were encountering the same die marriages over and over again. Rather than describing individual coins

with verbal statements, the three of us recognized that we needed a more systematic approach to quickly identify individual die marriages. This led to date style and date placement codes as well as star placement and star relationship codes for identifying obverse dies. The reverse dies were identified by scroll beginning and scroll ending charts as well as letter placements and letter relationships around the periphery. This work led to the foundation that resulted in the die marriage descriptions for the dime book that was published in 1984.

Over a period of twelve years the three of us identified 122 die marriages for the Capped Bust dime series from 1809 to 1837. David Davis completed this die marriage set and retained his collection until his death on November 2, 2011. A listing of the 122 coins in the Davis collection was most recently published in the December 2011 issue of the John Reich Journal. The collection is listed under David's membership number JRCS #001. In his will, David asked me to facilitate the sale of this important collection for his estate. In December 2011 David's widow Janet Davis withdrew the collection from the bank vault in Michigan and gave it to me to document for sale at auction. Upon receipt of the coins I prepared a listing that included 136 pieces from the collection.

I discovered that there were many duplicates in the set but surprisingly, many of the rare dates were missing. There were no 1809, 1811, 1814, 1822, 1823, 1824 or 1825 dimes and some of the die marriages were missing for the 1820, 1821, 1827 and 1829 dates. This was a disaster because we didn't have a complete collection and many of the important pieces were missing. I contacted Janet with this news and she was unable to explain what happened to the lost pieces. After discussing this issue with a number of people who knew David, we finally obtained an explanation for the missing coins.

David had been seriously ill for over two years before his death and at various times he underwent some very demanding sessions in the treatment for his illness. However, he was well enough to attend the ANA Convention in Boston during August 2010. It seems that he had taken some of the coins in his collection from the vault before the ANA Convention and forgot to return them before leaving for Boston. Not wanting them to be stolen in his absence, he hid them in what he considered to be a very safe place around the house. After undergoing subsequent treatments for his illness, he confided to one of his coin friends that he couldn't remember where he had hidden the missing dimes. After his death nobody knew where to look for the lost pieces.

Janet Davis now had a very serious problem; she simply didn't know where to look for the missing dimes. After a number of searches produced no coins, she decided



to invite several family members over for a complete search of the Davis home in a final effort to resolve the problem. This time the coins were found in a well hidden place that no burglar would have been able to find. Fortunately however, the family was eventually able to locate the lost pieces to present the entire collection for sale. The secret hiding place produced 63 more Bust dimes including examples of the rare dates that had been missing. A final listing of 199 coins was prepared and is very similar to the census of the collection published in the December 2011 issue of the John Reich Journal. However, there is one major difference! In his census David listed all of his mint state coins as MS60. Only a few of the coins have been certified but many of the mint state pieces are far superior to the MS60 grade that he has listed in the census. A few are stunningly beautiful pieces that could certify as high as MS65. There is a nice mint state 1809 dime, four 1811/09 dimes in late die states, a stunning 1822 dime in AU, an amazing 1823 JR-2 dime in a choice mint state grade, a very nice 1824 JR-2 dime, an amazing early die state 1827 JR-1 dime in a superb mint state grade, a circulated high grade 1827 JR-10 dime with nice surfaces and an 1829 JR-10 dime that has original surfaces without any significant damage.

After preparing the listing of 199 coins from the collection, I considered several options but finally decided to have the pieces presented for sale at auction by Stack's Bowers Galleries during the summer of 2012. I have therefore signed a contract with Stack's Bowers Galleries on behalf of the Davis estate and given the collection to Jim Matthews who will have the pieces certified and described for sale at auction this summer. A few of the more important coins in the collection have been described in the paragraphs below. The listed grades for the coins described below are only my opinion for the raw pieces in the collection and may differ from the grades assigned by the third party grading services. Any coins from the collection that are not suitable for the summer auction will be sold through a dealer who specializes in Bust coinage.

#### Descriptions for Some of the Important Coins from the Davis Bust Dime Collection

1809 JR-1 MS-60. This piece has beautiful natural surfaces with light golden toning through many of the obverse stars. The reverse also shows beautiful original surfaces with light toning through the fields and much of the lettering around the periphery.

1811/09 JR-1 VF-30. This late die state piece shows multiple die cracks on both the obverse and reverse. Obverse crack runs from rim through base of 8 to gown above. Outline of 09 can be seen in field around the 11 in the date. Die defect runs from the back of cap to the 11<sup>th</sup> star. Reverse die crack runs from rim through I in UNITED, though eagle's left wing and S in PLURIBUS on scroll to rim between second S in

STATES and O in OF. Another crack runs from the rim through the right side of the A in STATES, through the right side of the R in PLURIBUS and on to the eagle's eye. Another crack runs from rim through the left side of the first A in AMERICA to the second U in UNUM. Another crack runs from the rim through the right tip of the R in AMERICA and through the right wing to the eagle's neck and then diagonally through the shield and on through the eagle's feathers. Another crack runs from the rim through the right side of the second A in AMERICA and through the tip of the right wing to the eagle's claw. This piece has to be one of the last struck from this die pair.

1814 JR-3 MS-60. This piece has beautiful lustrous surfaces with dark peripheral toning between the stars and the dentils. There are strong clash marks showing the outline of two leaves in the field between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> stars and Liberty's nose. The reverse has beautiful lustrous surfaces with dark peripheral toning between much of the lettering and the dentils. There is a die crack that runs from the rim through the right side of the first leaf to the left of the 1 and on through the eagle's talons and feathers to the shield. Another crack runs from the upper left shield point to the eagle's beak and to the base of the first U in PLURIBUS on the scroll. There are also a number of additional cracks running through the vertical stripes in the reverse shield.

1820 JR-8 AU-50. This piece has beautiful lustrous surfaces with a minimum of field marks. The strong clockwise rotation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> stars as well as the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> stars is very evident. There is one strong reverse crack that runs from the eagle's neck and continues on through the left wing. Clash marks are visible above the date on the obverse and over the eagle's head on the reverse.

1821 JR-2 VF-25. This piece is the discovery specimen and the plate coin from the dime book. The defective left foot on the right diagonal of all three A's is very evident as well as the defect on the left foot of the right upright of the M.

1822 JR-1 AU-50. This piece has beautiful natural surfaces with medium toning that includes deep blue toning through the date digits on the obverse. The reverse is very sharp with medium gray toning through much of the design.

1823 JR-2 MS-63. This is a stunningly beautiful coin with amazing original surfaces covered in deep original toning. The obverse fields show deep blue toning with bright halo toning around most of the obverse stars. The reverse shows mostly blue toning with lighter highlights around much of the lettering on the periphery. This is an amazing coin from a very rare variety and possibly the finest known example of its marriage.



1824 JR-2 VF-20. This is a nice circulated example of the last marriage discovered before the dime book was published. This piece has clean natural surfaces with most of the design detail still evident on both the obverse and the reverse.

1825 JR-1 AU-50. This coin is a very late die state and the plate coin from the dime book. It has mostly original lustrous surfaces but there are a few field defects on the obverse. There is rim crumbling through the dentils over the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> stars extending in to the outer point of the 5<sup>th</sup> star. The reverse has original lustrous fields with some light toning around the periphery. There is a strong die crack that runs from the rim over the second A in AMERICA down through the three arrowheads and then through the C in the denomination to the edge again to the left of the C.

1827 JR-1 MS-65. This is a beautiful example of this recut date marriage in an early die state. The coin has original surfaces with some golden toning that is only moderately attractive. However in this condition the recutting of the 7 at the left base of the digit is very clear. Furthermore, this piece is in an early die state for this marriage showing a second recutting extending out beyond the more prominent recutting at the left base of the digit. This second recutting is only visible on early die state examples of this marriage and is very clear on a piece in this outstanding condition. The recutting on the 7 can be seen along the entire left side of the 7 including the left side of the upper serif.



**1827 JR-1 MS-65**



1827 JR-10 XF-45. This is an extremely rare marriage that is seldom available in any grade. This high grade circulated piece has attractive toning through the obverse stars and the date. The reverse is sharp with few field marks and only light toning through the lettering around the periphery. This is a beautiful example of the most important marriage in the entire Bust dime series.



**1827 JR-10 XF-45**

1828 JR-1 MS-61. This is a beautiful mint state example of the Small Date has darkly toned fields with small areas of bright toning. The fields are original with only a few minor marks to detract from this attractive specimen. It has been certified PCGS MS61, but it might grade higher if resubmitted for recertification under the current grading standards.

1829 JR-4 MS-65. This is a stunningly beautiful coin with brilliant original surfaces and golden toning through much of the design on the obverse and reverse. There is deep red and blue toning around the periphery through the stars and date on the obverse and similar red and blue toning around the periphery through the lettering and the denomination 10C on the reverse. This is an amazing beautiful piece and the plate coin from the dime book.



1829 JR-10 F-12. This is a nice coin with original gray surfaces and a nice example of the popular curled base 2. This piece exhibits a full LIBERTY and the curled base on the digit 2 is very clear on this worn but attractive specimen. There is no detracting damage or other defects on either the obverse or reverse. With most of the known examples grading AG to VG with damage on their surfaces, this piece is one of the better pieces available to the interested collector.



**1829 JR-10 F-12**

1830 JR-4 MS-62. This coin has original surfaces with beautiful gold and orange toning through the obverse design with darker blue toning through the thirteen stars. This is the 1830/29 overdate with the remains of the earlier digits visible around the last two digits in the date. The reverse has beautiful golden toning through the eagle and darker blue peripheral toning through the reverse lettering. The coin is weakly struck through the eagle's head and there is a die crack running from the rim over the first A in AMERICA, through the top of the letters ME and then back to the rim over the R.

1831 JR-2 MS-62. This piece has medium gray toning through the obverse design with darker gray toning around many of the obverse stars. The reverse shows a similar pattern with light gray toning through the eagle and darker toning through many of the letters around the periphery. While the toning lacks color this is still a very nice example of a scarce variety in the series.

1831 JR-5 AU-50. This is a nice high grade coin with a full rim cud on the reverse between the letters UNI and the rim. Other cracks run from the E in UNITED to the end of the scroll, from the rim through the A in STATES to the scroll over the R in PLURIBUS and from the rim through the O in OF to the scroll over the first U in UNUM. There is also some weakness in the dentils between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stars on the obverse opposite the reverse cud. This is a very attractive and interesting coin in a late die state.

1832 JR-1 MS-62. This is a late die state example of this marriage with beautiful subdued gray and brown toning. There is a very light die crack that connects the inner points of the left side stars and a stronger crack connecting the inner points of the right side stars. Another crack begins at the rim to the left of the date and runs up through the top of all four digits in the date. This is a very attractive and interesting coin to study.

1832 JR-5 MS-63. This coin has beautiful surfaces and subdued gray toning. A die crack runs through the top of the cap and on to the rim over the 8<sup>th</sup> star. Another crack runs from the rim through the 12<sup>th</sup> star and on to the curls to the left of the 13<sup>th</sup> star. The reverse shows brighter toning through the eagle and shield with darker toning through much of the peripheral lettering. This marriage is considered to be rare in mint state!

1833 JR-2 MS-63. This coin has beautiful surfaces with subdued gray toning through the obverse design and darker toning around many of the stars. The die crack that runs from the rim between the 13<sup>th</sup> star and the date is very clear. This crack extends up through the curls to Liberty's ear and on through the letter B in LIBERTY on the headband. The reverse has similar toning to the obverse with no visible die cracks. This is a rare marriage in all grades but particularly hard to obtain in mint state.

1833 JR-3 MS-62. This piece shows bright toning through the center of the obverse with patches of deep blue through many of the thirteen stars. The reverse is mostly bright with some small patches of blue and gold. There is a die crack that runs from the rim through the 0 in the denomination up to the eagle's talons. Another crack runs from the rim through the second A in AMERICA, down through the two upper arrowheads and then back to the rim. This is a very difficult marriage to obtain in mint state.

1834 JR-6 MS-62. This coin has a beautiful brilliant uncirculated obverse with very attractive surfaces. The date has the Large 4 with no crossbar. The reverse is also brilliant uncirculated with very light toning but there are multiple die cracks running through many areas of the design. The strongest of these is a heavy crack running



through the base of the letters ATES. The many hairline cracks make this piece very interesting to study. This coin is from Stack's sale of the Lovejoy Collection in October 1990. This is the plate coin from the dime book.

1834 JR-7 MS-63. This coin has brilliant golden toning through much of the obverse design with darker shades of blue and purple in areas around some of the stars. This piece also has brilliant uncirculated luster throughout the reverse with areas of blue and violet in some areas around the periphery.

1835 JR-4 MS-63. This coin is brilliant uncirculated with orange highlights though the obverse design and darker patches of blue and violet through many of the stars. The reverse also has a bright center with darker shades of blue and violet through the peripheral lettering. This coin is from Stack's sale of the Lovejoy Collection in October 1990.

1835 JR-8 MS-63. This coin is brilliant uncirculated with only light toning on the obverse. The reverse is mostly brilliant uncirculated with a few patches of darker toning around the periphery. This coin is from Stack's sale of the Lovejoy Collection in October 1990. This is the plate coin from the dime book.

1836 JR-2 AU-50. A nice lustrous coin with a minimum of field marks. This piece clearly shows the Fancy 8 over the Block 8 in the date. This piece also has the bisecting obverse crack that runs from the rim up through the left side of the 3 in the date, up through Liberty's gown and curls, through the T in the headband and through the cap to the rim above.

1837 JR-2 MS-62. This piece has uniform medium gray toning throughout the obverse design. The reverse has lighter toning on the eagle but uniform darker toning through the lettering on the periphery. There is one significant die crack that runs through the 0 and into the C in the denomination and then up through the eagle's talons to the right wing. This is a very attractive example of this marriage.

*Editor's Note:*

*Please see the comments by Jim Matthews on the sale of the David J. Davis Bust Dime collection on page 43.*



# **Breakup of the 1796-1797 Half Dollar Reverse A**

## **Jon P. Amato, Ph.D.**

Draped Bust Small Eagle half dollars were produced using three obverse and two reverse dies. The first reverse (Reverse A, per M.L. Beistle, 1929, and Al Overton, 2005) was paired with the 1796 15 stars obverse (O-101), the 1796 16 stars obverse (O-102), and early to middle stages of the 1797 obverse (O-101 and O-101a die state). Reverse A shattered during its use with the 1797 obverse and was subsequently replaced with the Beistle/Overton Reverse B (1797 O-102). Figure 1 illustrates the location of the cracks on Reverse A at the point it reached its terminal (or at least near-terminal) die state (1797 O-101a).



**Figure 1 – Reverse A Die Cracks, 1797 O-101a Terminal Die State**  
**Source: Beistle (1929, Overton (2005), and the author**

Early half dollar and type-coin specialists are familiar with the numerous die cracks on the 1797 O-101a reverse. Little is known, however, about their development. This article reports on my research into the progressive breakup of Reverse A, or at least a preliminary assessment thereof.

### **Beistle's and Overton's Research on Reverse A**

Beistle writes that the first crack on Reverse A occurred during its early use with the 1797 obverse: "There is a die crack from the edge through O in OF, to end of a leaf." Overton, on the other hand, contends that this first Reverse A crack occurred when it was paired with a later stage of the 1796 16 stars obverse, not with the 1797 obverse.

Both Beistle and Overton go on to cite the plethora of cracks developing on Reverse A after it was paired with the 1797 obverse, though Beistle is more specific on the number and location of these cracks. He states:

"A die crack runs from the edge between D and S in UNITED STATES, and across the left wing. Another proceeds to the right, from the same crack near the side of D; to the base of ST in STATES. Another from the edge, through the stand of first T in STATES, to the the eagle's head. Another from the edge: through the O in OF, to the right, along a leaf and stem, to the edge of the right wing. Another short die crack appears from the base of O in OF, to the left."

Beistle's assessment conforms to several, though not all, of the cracks illustrated in figure 1.



### Current Research Findings on the Reverse A Breakup

Based on my findings as part of a larger research project, the first crack to develop on Reverse A was not that from the rim through the O in OF, as suggested by Beistle and Overton, but one that started between the tops of ES in STATES and extended midway to the top of O in OF. Moreover, this incipient crack developed when Reverse A was paired with the 1796 15 stars half dollar obverse. Figure 2, illustrating the 1796 15 stars PCGS AU58 example from Heritage Auctions' July 2008 sale (lot 1668), displays this crack in the upper-right reverse (the Heritage archives image, [HA.com/1114\\*1668](http://HA.com/1114*1668), gives an even clearer depiction of this crack). No other reverse cracks are evident on this coin, indicating that it was indeed the first crack to develop on Reverse A. It apparently developed relatively early, as it is visible on ten of the 24 high-grade (XF and finer) 1796 15 stars half dollar reverse images that I have examined. Heavy toning or poor catalog images prevented a determination of whether this crack (which is always light or thin) was present on any other of the remaining fourteen 1796 15 stars examples.

**Figure 2 – Initial Crack on Reverse A, 1796 15 Stars**





The second crack to develop on Reverse A is the one alluded to by Beistle and Overton, extending from the rim to the O in OF, or more specifically to the upper-right part of O. It appears to have first developed, however, when Reverse A was paired with the 1796 15 stars obverse, not with the 1796 16 stars obverse per Overton or the 1797 obverse per Beistle. This crack, which is initially very fine, appears on the 1796 15 stars PCGS AU58 example (lot 2018) from the Heritage Auctions' September 2008 sale (figure 3). It is even more clear on the Heritage archives image (HA.com/1116\*2018), which incidentally also shows the first crack through the tops of ES in STATES. The second crack will eventually travel from the lower-right side of O through the palm leaves below F to the middle-edge of the right (facing) wing when Reverse A is paired with the 1796 16 stars obverse. Lot 1865 from Heritage Auctions September 2006 sale displays this extended crack (HA.com/416\*1865). Later it will travel through the wing into the upper-right part of the right (facing) leg.



**Figure 3 – Second Crack on Reverse A, 1796 15 Stars**

What is probably the third crack that forms on Reverse A developed when it was paired with the latter stages of the 1797 O-101 obverse. It extends from the rim at 10:30 through the first T of STATES to the laurel wreath. Figure 4, illustrating the 1797 O-101 NCS XF Details coin from the Heritage Auctions' January 2009 FUN sale (lot 3837), displays this crack (again, it shows more clearly in the Heritage archives image, HA.com/1121\*3837). This crack will later extend to the back of the eagle's head (1797 O-101a).





**Figure 4 – Reverse Crack from First T to Wreath, 1797 O-101**

What is perhaps the fourth crack to develop on Reverse A extends from the rim at 9:30 through the laurel wreath and the top of the left (facing) wing and then to the lower neck. This crack is relatively heavy and is usually visible even on well-worn specimens. For this reason most catalogers and researchers, myself included, consider it the major criterion for differentiating the 1797 O-101a die state from its “earlier die state” 1797 O-101 predecessor. The Gem Uncirculated 1797 O-101a half from the Stack’s/Akers/RARCOA November 1995 Numisma ’95 sale (lot 1251) displays this crack (fig. 5). More importantly, this coin depicts virtually all other reverse cracks shown on Figure 1; only the diagonal crack midway between the eagle’s beak and the curve of the right (facing) wing is not clear. This latter crack may well have been the last to develop on Reverse A. Whatever the case, the Stack’s/Akers/RARCOA catalog appropriately states that this coin is: “Struck from the same reverse die used to coin the 1796 Half Dollars, here in a much more advanced state, near to total collapse.”



**Figure 5 – Final Cracks on Reverse A**

### Summary

Based on my examination of high-grade (XF and finer) Draped Bust Small Eagle half dollars, I have attempted to illustrate the development of die cracks on Reverse A when it was paired with the 1796 15 stars and 16 stars obverses, and the early to middle stages of the 1797 obverse (O-101 variety and O-101a die state). The analysis presents a fairly reliable picture of the incipient and ultimate cracks. The progression of the “in between” cracks is however, less clear. This results from many of them being very light or thin to begin with and subject to wear, even on high-grade coins. Moderate to deep toning further clouds the picture on some examples.

I welcome any additional information or thoughts on this subject from JRCS members as well as others in the numismatic community. Please send correspondence to [Jona@HA.com](mailto:Jona@HA.com) or to Jon Amato, POB 5535, Albany, NY 12205.

### References

- Amato, Jon P., The Draped Bust Half Dollars of 1796-1797: Numismatic Background and Census, unpublished manuscript.
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## **The Missing Piece: The Terminal Die State of 1830 Obverse 1 Dime**

**Louis Scuderi**

In a recent JRJ article (Scuderi, 2008) I wrote about a newly found triple CUD die state of the 1830 JR3 dime with an obverse retained CUD at stars 8 and 9 and two reverse CUDS. Since that article came out I have found a few additional examples of this unlisted die state. However, the rare 1830 Obverse 1 terminal die state with a full CUD, my missing piece to the 1830 JR1/2/3 puzzle, continued to elude me.

Recently while searching on eBay I spotted the elusive missing full CUD coin and quickly got the first bid in. Now we are not talking a high-grade dime. The coin was a low-grade G+/G- with obverse scratches. However, it did have that full CUD -- and of course I had to have it. Expecting a few late bidders I was ready at the keyboard when the auction closed and won the coin with a last second bid that, had someone else bid really high, would have brought immense pleasure to the seller. Fortunately the damage wasn't too bad and my children can still attend college.



**Figure 1. 1830 JR3 VLDS with a close ups of the retained CUD.**

As can be seen in Figure 1, the Very Late Die State of 1830 Obverse 1 is characterized by a significant number of dentil breaks, a large die crack from the rim through star 7 extending into the upper portion of Liberty's cap, and a retained CUD involving stars 8 and 9. In this VLDS the large die crack involving star 7 has the appearance of an internal CUD. Of interest to Obverse Die 1 deterioration story, the retained CUD at stars 8 and 9 shows a slight offset where it interacts with the dentils suggesting that this portion of the die was already detached. However, since the inner points of star 7 and 8 are clearly visible, this shows that this portion of the die had not fallen away yet.

In Figure 2, which illustrates the newly found terminal die state, the CUD has now progressed to a full CUD with its boundary at a higher level than the stars and level with the rim. There is no trace of the inner points of stars 8 and 9 and it is clear that by this time this portion of the die no longer is part of the striking surface. While there appears to be no additional deterioration of the dentils (rim crumbling: Davis et al., 1984) and the internal CUD at star 7 appears unchanged, there is a slight suggestion that the edge of the CUD is slightly larger and sharper in this terminal state.



**Figure 2. 1830 JR3 terminal die state with a close up of the full CUD over stars 8 and 9.**

It is unlikely that the die lasted much longer and finally the heavily used 1830 Obverse 1 was retired along with the double retained CUD 1830 Reverse C die. As I speculated in my article on the 1829 Curl Base Two JR10 dime (Scuderi, 2011), this obverse may have been a test die designed with a wider rim for a slightly higher striking pressure. All of the reverse dies associated with 1830 Obverse 1 failed with CUD's (JR1- Davis et al., 1984; JR2- Peterson, 2009; JR3- Scuderi, 2008) and of course the 1829 Obverse 6, Curl Base Two, die linked to 1830 Reverse B (JR2) also failed in spectacular fashion suggesting a possible change in some aspect of the minting process (Scuderi, 2011). The failure of the 1830 Obverse 1 in all likelihood marked the end of this experiment.



## **References**

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Scuderi, L.A., 2008. An Extremely Late Die State, Triple Cud, 1830 JR-3 Dime. John Reich Journal 19(2):43.

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### **Notes from Jim Matthews:**

Stack's-Bowers Galleries is proud to offer the David J. Davis Collection of Capped Bust dimes during our ANA Auction in early August at the Philadelphia ANA Convention. The collection is virtually complete by die marriage, including all the rare varieties save for the recently discovered 1827 JR-14 dime. The coins are just coming back from PCGS and I'll know the grades shortly. In some cases multiple examples of a single variety will be offered, and grades range from well circulated to Mint State. There will certainly be something for every budget and collector. Each coin certified by PCGS will have the name David J. Davis on the insert to memorialize this important pedigree.

David J. Davis was a founding member of the John Reich Collectors Society and served as its President from the beginning in 1985 until shortly before his death last year of cancer. He is JRCS #1. Over his lifetime David collected many series, but as time often requires, some areas are sold off, others are kept. In his case, he kept the Capped Bust dime series and these were among his most favored coins.

Cataloging will commence shortly and the sale should be online at our website of [www.stacksbowers.com](http://www.stacksbowers.com) and ANA catalogs are offered free of charge to members of the JRCS Club by calling Adrienne Allen at 800-458-4646 and mention my name too! If anyone has any specific questions of the grades or die states of a particular variety please email me at [JMatthews@stacksbowers.com](mailto:JMatthews@stacksbowers.com)

# Bust Coin Patterns – Or Lack Thereof

David Finkelstein

Table 1 lists the 22 Small Eagle and Heraldic Eagle bust coin patterns and die trials, as identified on the USPatterns.com web site. Note that in some cases, the same Judd number has been assigned to multiple die marriages of the same date and denomination.

**Table 1 – Bust Patterns & Die Trials By Judd Number**

Judd	Date	Den	DM	Metal	Edge	Typ	Comments
14	1794	5C	-	Copper	R	P	No obverse stars "HALF DISME"
15	1794	5C	LM-3	Copper	R	T	On Half Dime size planchet
15	1794	5C	LM-4	Copper	R	T	On Half Dime size planchet
16	1794	5C	LM-2	Copper	P	T	On Half Dime size planchet
17	1794	50C	O-101	Copper	L	T	Cut down and overstruck as 1795 C-6 Half Cent
17	1794	50C	O-102	Copper	L	T	Cut down and overstruck as 1795 C-6A Half Cent
17	1794	50C	O-104	Copper	L	T	Cut down and overstruck as 1795 C-6 Half Cent
17	1794	50C	O-105	Copper	L	T	Cut down and overstruck as 1795 C-6A Half Cent
17	1794	50C	O-106	Copper	L	T	Cut down and overstruck as 1795 C-6A Half Cent
17	1794	50C	O-109	Copper	L	T	On Half Dollar size planchet
18	1794	\$1	-	Copper	L	P	No obverse stars
19	1794	\$1	B-1	Copper	L	T	
21	1795	5C	LM-9	Copper	R	T	Plugged, defaced
22	1795	50C	O-117	Copper	L	T	Cut down and overstruck as 1795 C-6 Half Cent
23	1795	\$5	BD-4	Copper	R	T	On Half Eagle size planchet, defaced
23	1795	\$5	BD-5	Copper	R	T	On Half Eagle size planchet
24	1797	\$5	BD-4	Copper	R	T	On Half Eagle size planchet, defaced
25	1797	\$10	BD-2	Copper	R	T	On Eagle size planchet, bent
25A	1798	\$1	B-30A	Copper	?	?	Struck on copper scrap
26	1799	\$10	BD-3	Copper	R	T	On Eagle size planchet, defaced
34	1804	\$10	BD-2	Silver	R	T	On Eagle size planchet, Proof Novodel dies
34A	1804	\$10	BD-2	Silver	P	T	On Eagle size planchet, Proof Novodel dies



The “Judd”, “Date”, “Den”[omination], and “Metal” columns are self explanatory. The “DM” or Die Marriage column contains a “-“ if the entry was struck from a pair of dies that was not used to strike production coinage. The “Edge” column values are R(reeded), L (lettered), P (plain) and ? (unknown to me). The “Typ”[e] column values are P (pattern), T (die trial) and ? (I am not sure).

Note that there are listings in the Bowers and Pollock references on patterns that identify counterfeits and fantasy pieces struck outside the Mint. Those items were not included in Table 1.

The one thing that all of the above 22 items have in common is that they are off-metal strikes. The dies for Judd 14 through Judd 26 would normally have been used for silver or gold coins, but were struck in copper. The dies for Judd 34 and Judd 34a would normally have been used for gold coins, but were struck in silver.

19 of the 22 entries were struck from production dies, on correct size planchets, but in the wrong metal. For example, Judd 15 and Judd 16 were struck on Half Dime size planchets, but the planchets were punched from copper strip. Judd 15 and Judd 16, as well as the other 17 items in Table 1 with a Typ of “T”, are classified as die trials.

2 of the 22 entries, Judd 14 and Judd 18, are classified as patterns. They were struck from dies that were never used to strike production coins.

- Judd 14 is a 1794 Half Dime with no obverse stars and the denomination is spelled HALF DISME. See Figure 1. It has a design unlike any business strike Half Dime identified in “Federal Half Dimes, 1792-1837”.
- Likewise, Judd 18, the 1794 Flowing Hair Dollar with no obverse stars, is definitely different in design than any of the Bust Dollars minted from 1794-1804. See Figure 2.

One entry in the table, Judd 25A, has a Type of “?”. It is a 1798 B-30A, BB-116 Bust Dollar that is struck on copper scrap. See Figure 3. The piece of scrap is not round, and appears to have 6 sides. Can this be considered a Die Trial? Was it struck intentionally? Was it struck by mistake? I don’t know. What I do know is that this piece of scrap was struck using production dies, therefore it cannot be considered a pattern.

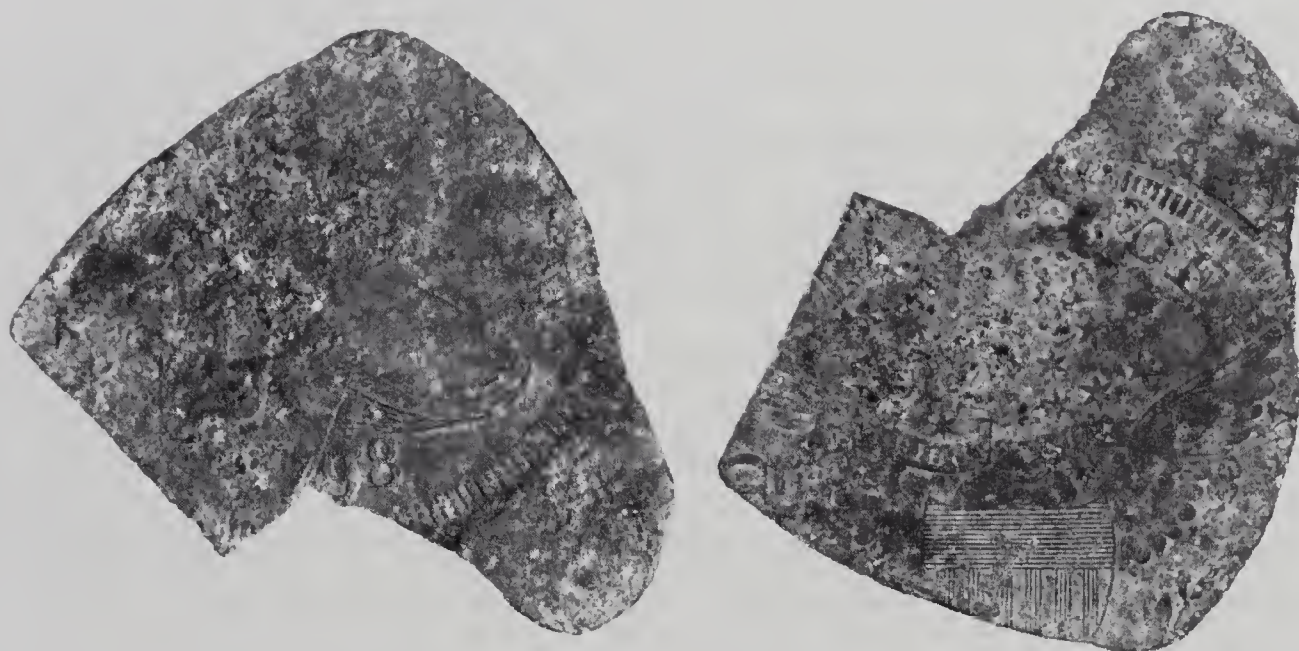


**Figure 1.** *1794 Judd 14 Half Dime, Copper, Reeded Edge*



**Figure 2.** *1794 Judd 18 Dollar, Copper, Lettered Edge*





**Figure 3.** *1798 Judd 25A - B30A BB-116 Bust Dollar, Copper Scrap*

There are only 2 different known Bust coin patterns (Judd 14 and Judd 18). Both patterns are dated 1794; the first year of issue for Bust coins. It seems strange and illogical that the Mint did not create any patterns dated 1795 through 1807 to test possible changes to the Bust coin design. Using my vivid imagination, I came up with a scenario that explains this:

- The Mint did create pattern dies dated 1795 through 1807 that were never intended to be used for production coins.
- The dies were used to strike patterns.
- Every pattern was destroyed or lost, or is hidden away in multiple collections that have not seen the light of day in decades or centuries.

This raises a very valid question. Why isn't one pattern dated 1795 through 1807 known or rumored to exist? I follow the KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) methodology, therefore the answer is simple. There aren't any.

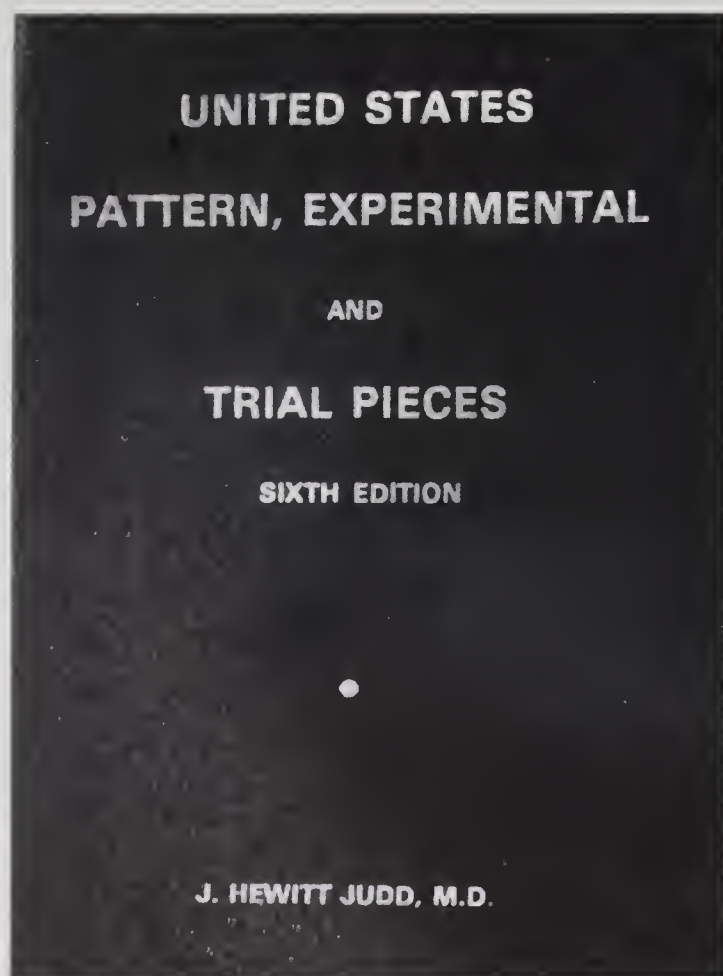
What I do believe is that the Mint created prototype (or experimental) dies to test new ideas and possible changes to the existing production design elements. These prototype dies were placed immediately into production, and struck the coins that we now buy, sell, collect and identify in die marriage reference books. The prototypes tested were either discarded or adopted.

My research and proof is extensive and will be published in future JRJ articles.

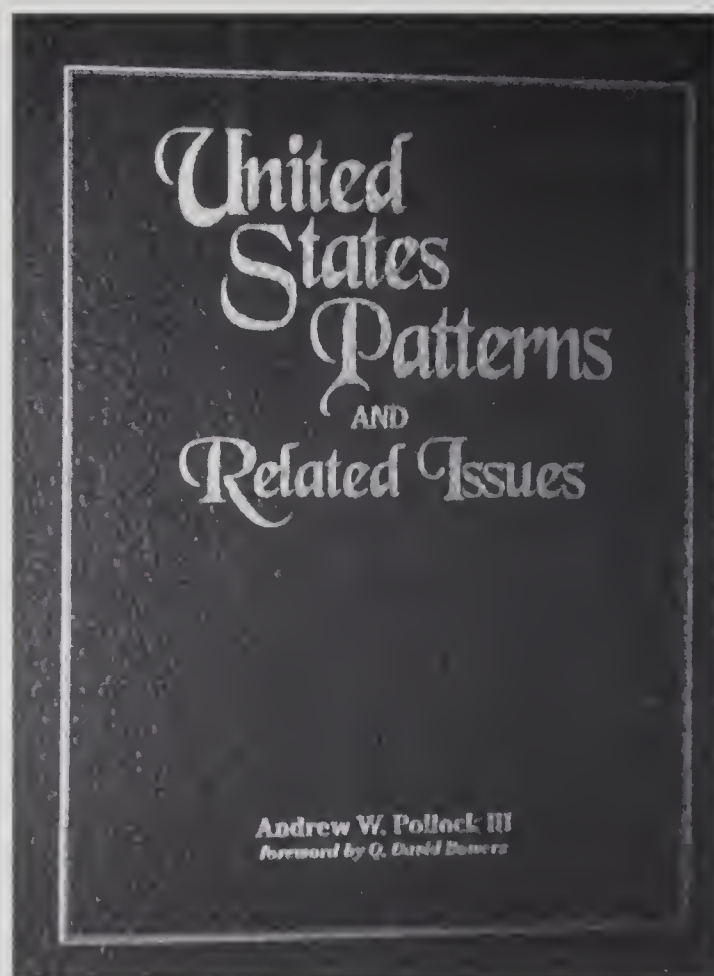
To be continued...

## References

1. [www.uspatterns.com](http://www.uspatterns.com) - The home of The Society of U.S. Pattern Collectors.
2. United States Pattern Coins, J. Hewitt Judd, M.D., Q. David Bowers, 9th Edition.
3. United States Patterns and Related Issues, Andrew W. Pollock III.
4. Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837, Russell J. Logan, John W. McCloskey.
5. The image of the 1794 Judd 14 Half Disme is reprinted with the permission of the National Numismatic Collection of The Smithsonian Institution.
6. The image of the 1794 Judd 18 Dollar is reprinted with the permission of Ira and Larry Goldberg Coins and Collectibles.
7. The image of the 1798 Judd 25A Dollar is reprinted with the permission of The American Numismatic Society.



US Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces  
by J. Hewitt Judd, MD



US Patterns and Related Issues  
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